

18th Military Police Brigade

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: 20110414-01

April 14, 2011

MP Commandant talks leadership, learning during visit

State of the regiment address and visits to troops focus on future of the MP Corps

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MANNHEIM, Germany – It has been said that leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. The ability to balance both qualities has been the mark of not only our greatest leaders, but also some of our greatest Soldiers.

Brig. Gen. David D. Phillips, the commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, emphasized the importance of both leadership and learning during his visit to the 18th Military Police Brigade March 29 through April 1.

During a whirlwind tour, Phillips travelled throughout Germany to the brigade's subordinate units to meet with Soldiers and talk to them on a personal level. Setting aside the formality of formations during his visits, Phillips had troops gather around, get comfortable, and pepper him with questions and feedback.

An important goal for Phillips was to learn what the “boots on the ground” Soldiers felt were some of their most pressing issues. Soldiers were eager to offer up their experiences with different tactical vehicles, weapons and equipment.

As a bonus, Soldiers also had a chance to hear what the Army and the regiment have in store for future improvements and changes – changes, Phillips said, that will come with direct input from Soldiers.

Phillips noted how important it is to give Soldiers the opportunity to voice their thoughts and, more importantly, to know that they are being heard by the top leadership in their regiment.

Leadership was a key talking point for Phillips not only in his casual conversations with Soldiers, but also during the State of the Regiment address at Coleman Chapel on Coleman Barracks here March 30.

MPs from throughout the brigade and across Germany attended the event, with some Soldiers traveling hundreds of miles to hear the address. MPs from all skill specialties within the regiment – dog handlers, corrections specialists, military police and Criminal Investigation Division agents – were on hand to hear the latest information.

While Phillips went through the standard figures and statistics from within the regiment, he made a point to put special emphasis on the responsibilities and duties of the leaders within the regiment that are needed to continue moving the organization forward in a positive direction.

With an end to combat operations in Iraq and talk of downsizing the number of troops in Afghanistan, there is the potential for many changes to the mission of MPs worldwide.

“Up until about a year and a half ago, the military police corps regiment did not have a mission statement,” Phillips pointed out.

With a consistent combat mission to draw from and a mission statement in place, Phillips said the emphasis in the MP mission now focuses on staying relevant to what the rest of the Army needs from MPs, which has been primarily law enforcement and detainee operations.

Dividing military police skills into separate “M” and “P” functions, for the traditional garrison and combat roles respectively, Phillips pointed out the balance between the two areas has become lopsided.

“Since 2003 there has not been a single (request for forces) – not one – to deploy military police forces to do anything other than our ‘P’ skills as MPs: law enforcement, police intelligence ops and detention operations,” Phillips said.

“No one is asking us to use our ‘M’ skills,” he continued.

In order to round out the skills of military police, Phillips suggested that in the future there will be more emphasis on experience in Directorate Emergency Services positions, in order for Soldiers to be recommended for promotion to senior NCO ranks.

Through his interactions and the State of the Regiment address, Phillips’ visit effectively underscored the two key qualities – leadership and learning – the MP Corps needs from its Soldiers and leaders to continue moving the regiment in the right direction and making its forces indispensable to the Army.



10329-A-NL632-120

Brig. Gen. David D. Phillips, the commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, meets with Soldiers from the 529th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, March 29 in Heidelberg, Germany, to answer their questions and get their feedback on tactical vehicles, weapons and equipment. Phillips' visit to the 18th MP Brigade also included giving the State of the Regiment address March 30 in Mannheim, Germany.
(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)



110330-A-NL632-255

The Coleman Chapel on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, is filled with military police from all over Germany as Brig. Gen. David D. Phillips, the commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, delivers the State of the Regiment address March 30.
(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)



110331-A-NL632-326

Brig. Gen. David D. Phillips, the commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, congratulates Pfc. Anthony Rivelli, a military police Soldier with the 230th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, during Phillips' visit to Sembach, Germany, March 31.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)



110401-A-NL632-435

Brig. Gen. David D. Phillips, the commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, stops to have a quick talk with Sgt. Brad Vialpando, an internment and resettlement specialist at the U.S. Army Corrections Activity-Europe's confinement facility, April 1 in Mannheim, Germany. Phillips met with military police throughout Germany during his visit to the 18th MP Brigade March 29 through April 1.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)